Joint Sampling of Coal

769. SHRI DEEPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the performance of the "Public Analysis", appointed by the Coal Controller for joint sampling of coal at loading centres;

(b) whether the State Electricity Boards are by and large satisfied with this new system of joint sampling;

(c) what was the reason for discontinuing the practice of determination of coal quality at the receiving end i.e. at the Power Stations;

(d) whether Government have received any representation relating to the quality and quantity of coal supplied to Power Stations from the Central Electricity Authority and/or the Council of Power Utilities and/or from the SEBs; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) As of now Coal controller has not appointed 'Public Analysis' for joint sampling at the loading ends, Instead, persons under administrative and functional control of the Coal Controller have been engaged to check the quality of coal despatched from different loading points of Coal India Limited. The State Electricity Boards have not yet accepted this method of sampling.

(c) to (e) Coal companies are responsible for supply of correct quality and quantity of coal at the pit heads. This is also the point where the property (Coal) is transferred to the consumers or their transport agents. The quality and quantity of coal supplies have to be verified by the consumer at the point where he or his agent takes possession and any discrepancy regarding weight and quality should be sorted out on that basis. The legal responsibility of the supplier ceases as soon as the property is transferred. This is also the position under Sales of Goods Act.

Government has also taken a decision that an independent third party inspection agency for quality assurance in coal should be established, preferably through the Coal Controller's Organisation on a self-financing basis. All such quality inspections should be done at the colliery end before despatch and not the consumers and after receipt, Government is of the view that coal supplies to major consumers should be governed by a mutually negotiatd commercial agreement between the supplier and the buyer.

Average increase in Coal Price

770. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the rationale and basis for increasing the prices of coal by an average of 5.25 percent in June, 1994, 4.5 percent in June, 1993 and by 13 percent in February, 1993;

(b) whether these price increases were in accordance with the guidelines of the BICP and if so, what are the details and justifications therefor;

(c) to what extent it was possible to avert these price increases, either partially or wholly, by liquidation of huge inventories; and

(d) the reasons for large accumulation of stocks and for not adopting the prudent inventory management policy system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Based on a detailed study of the coal production costs from representative